



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 814

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 972

Senate, May 12, 2015

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. BYE of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL TRAINING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) For the school year
2 commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, each local
3 and regional board of education shall annually provide training to all
4 paraprofessionals employed by such board. Such training shall (1)
5 provide information necessary to instruct each paraprofessional on the
6 duties and responsibilities that such paraprofessional is expected to
7 perform, (2) be consistent with the specific needs of the student or
8 students to whom the paraprofessional will be assigned, and (3) be
9 provided before the start of the school year by the immediate
10 supervisor of the paraprofessional and with pay. In the case of a
11 paraprofessional who is hired by a local or regional board of education
12 after the start of the school year or who has been reassigned during the
13 school year, such training shall be provided to such paraprofessional
14 before such paraprofessional's assignment or reassignment begins.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
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<i>PRI</i>	<i>Joint Favorable Subst. C/R</i>	ED
<i>ED</i>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	APP
<i>APP</i>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>	

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill requires each local and regional board of education to annually provide training to all paraprofessionals employed within their district. To the extent that districts do not currently provide the training identified in the bill, local and regional school districts will incur a cost. The cost will vary depending on the number of paraprofessionals employed by the district, their salary, and the number of training hours. It is estimated that in FY 13, there were approximately 14,450 full time equivalent, non-certified instructional staff, statewide, with an average salary range of \$14-\$18 per hour. It is estimated that approximately 41 districts currently provide mandatory, paid training to paraprofessionals.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 972*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL TRAINING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires each local or regional board of education to provide annual paid training to all paraprofessionals before the new school year starts or, if they are hired or reassigned after the start, before they begin their assignment or reassignment.

In addition, the training must:

1. provide information necessary to instruct each paraprofessional on his or her duties and responsibilities,
2. be consistent with the specific needs of the student or students to whom the paraprofessional will be assigned, and
3. be provided by the paraprofessional's immediate supervisor.

Paraprofessionals are assistants who are not certified but help schools by performing numerous classroom-related tasks. They are often assigned to special education students, sometimes on a one-on-one basis.

There is no current statutory requirement to annually train paraprofessionals. Their training is left up to the discretion of their local or regional boards of education, although SDE is charged with encouraging local districts to help paraprofessionals get professional development (CGS § 10-155j). Also, the teacher in-service training law permits paraprofessionals to participate in teacher in-service training on a voluntary basis (CGS § 10-220a(a)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/13/2015)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 27 Nay 6 (03/27/2015)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 22 (04/29/2015)